

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 06904 242015Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05

INT-05 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1686

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6904

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR EC

SUBJ: GOE ISSUES STATEMENT ON GULF DISPUTE

REF: 6875

1. THE CHIEFS OF MISSION OF ALL THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS WERE SUMMONED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY (SEPT. 24) AT NOON WHERE WE WERE PRESENTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER WITH A CIRCULAR NOTE ON THE GULF PROBLEM. THE TEXT OF THE NOTE, WHICH IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY, IS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THE "PRESS RELEASE" TRANSMITTED IN TRANSLATION BY REFTEL WITH THE ADDITION AT THE END OF SEVERAL SENTENCES WHICH EMPHASIZE THAT THE MATTER IS STRICTLY BETWEEN ECUADOR AND A PRIVATE COMPANY SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF ECUADOR, THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOE TO MAINTAIN A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT, AND ITS DEMAND THAT GULF RESPECT ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND LAWS.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ELABORATED ON THE MEMORANDUM ONLY VERY BRIEFLY TO SAY THAT THE ACTION OF THE GOE IN REGARD TO GULF WAS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO CREATE A BILATERAL PROBLEM" WITH A FRIENDLY COUNTRY" AND TO POINT OUT THAT GULF HAD AGREED, WHEN IT SIGNED ITS CONTRACT WITH THE GOE, TO SUBJECT ITSELF COMPLETELY TO ECUADOREAN JURIS-

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PAGE 02 QUITO 06904 242015Z

DICTION.

3. THERE WAS LITTLE COMMENT FROM AMBASSADORS. THE NICARAGUAN SUGGESTED THAT THE GOE ALSO PROVIDE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN GULF AND THE GOE "SO THAT THE MINISTRY'S NOTE COULD BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD". HE WAS QUICKLY COUNTERED BY THE MEXICAN WHO SAID, SINCE THE MATTER WAS WITHIN ECUADOREAN JURISDICTION, HE FELT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO RIGHT TO ASK FOR DOCUMENTS.

4. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT FOR ME TO COMMENT AND I REMAINED SILENT.

5. IN A CONVERSATION I HAD WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER EARLIER, HE TOLD ME THE NOTE WOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE ECUADOREAN EMBASSY AND WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC.

6. GIVEN THE DELICATE STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ISSUE, I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE NO COMMENT ON THE NOTE IF IT IS INDEED MADE PUBLIC.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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